Lesson 9: Not all Minds are Alike

Activity

Teacher's Note: Share the following sample story with the class about a student's conscious experience. As you read the story the first time, have students identify the sensory experiences taking place. Then read the story again and try to identify which part of the brain would be activated by each experience.

You could also print it out and have them read it together as a class and highlight or underline the different sensory experiences. Or, write it on chart paper and read it to the class, etc.

Mark is sitting on his back porch reading a book. He is chewing grape flavored bubble gum and he notices that it is beginning to lose its flavor, so he throws it in the trash. He hears a dog barking at a car driving past across the street from his house. He decides to put on his headphones and listen to music so the noise won't distract him from his reading. He plays quiet piano music. He can smell the pie his mom is cooking in the kitchen. He looks at his watch and makes a plan to read for 15 more minutes and then go inside for dinner.

Mark is sitting on his back porch reading (vision/occipital lobe) a book. He is chewing grape flavored bubble gum (taste/parietal lobe) and he notices that it is beginning to lose its flavor, so he throws it in the trash (movement/frontal lobe). He hears a dog barking at a car driving past across the street from his house. (sound/temporal lobe) He decides to put on his headphones and listen to music so the noise won't distract him from his reading.(decision making/frontal lobe). He plays quiet piano music. (sound/temporal lobe) He can smell the pie his mom is cooking in the kitchen. (olfactory bulbs) He looks at his watch and makes a plan to read for 15 more minutes and then go inside for dinner. (making a plan/frontal lobe).

- Next, have students get together in partners or small groups to come up with their own sample "conscious experience." They can write it down, or just talk about it.
- Have students join pairs with another group and see if they can identify the active parts of the brain in each other's scenarios.